

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY. SAMUEL G SMITH HILLSBORO, W. VA. POCAHONTAS COUNTY.
TANNING.

Pocahontas County has had tanneries of various sizes operating since the first settlers came here. ^{The Greenbrier Tannery} The Union Tanning Company operating in the Greenbrier Valley under the Greenbrier Tannery began operation about 1901, their main office was in New York they operated continuously ~~until~~ until 1927 when the original plant burned, however a new and up-to-date tannery was built upon the original site, but it failed to operate and was idle from 1928 until 1941.

Both tanbark and extract was used from 01 to 28 when it was running at capacity, and the daily capacity at that time was about 600 hides and at that time they employed about 150 men both skilled and unskilled with an approximate pay-roll of \$ 120,000 per year. This tannery had a reputation of producing a very fine grade of leather which was known by the trade name of "Greenbrier", and was in great demand by the leather industry all over the eastern part of the U S. The finished product was shipped almost entirely to Boston, Massachusetts.

The general manager was S. N Hench, and today a part of Marlinton is made up of the Tannery row houses most all of them are along the Greenbrier River bank on the eastern bank, this tannery contributed greatly to the growth and development of Marlinton and the Idray District as the monthly pay-roll was about \$ 10,000 per month, this made the town of Marlinton grow, caused

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outside people to move in, this made a market that in turn caused many stores to be built to supply the needs of the tannery workers and their families some 40 to 50 dwelling houses were built by the Union Tanning Co.

This plant was idle until the spring of 41 when it was bought by the International Shoe Company of St. Louis Missouri and is run under the firm name of Marlinton Tannery of International Shoe Co. of St. Louis Mo. they having a contract with the federal government to supply them with several thousand pairs of shoes, and at the present time they are employing from 120 to 130 men and will hire more as they get production started, the present pay roll runs about \$10,000 monthly. This pay-roll helps greatly and when the tannery whistle blew for the first time in 12 years the people of Marlinton and surrounding countryside were joyous because they knew Marlinton would again have a pay-roll which is boosting the local markets.

Pocahontas County has another tannery located at Frank. W. Va. near Durbin it runs under the name of Pocahontas Tanning Co. and was started in 1904 by J.G Hoffman Sr. and J.G Hoffman Jr. J.G Hoffman 3rd and Frank Hoffman all of Wheeling W. Va. and Frank Howes and I.G Howes of Boston Mass.

This plant is located at Frank W. Va. which is near Durbin and the two combined have a population of 1000 which has access to both the C & O and Western Maryland Railroad at Durbin. there is from 40 to 50 houses at Frank

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that are occupied by employees of the Pocahontas Tannery the present number of employees is 300 and the average monthly payroll is \$35,000.

The general Manager and Sup't of production is H.M Widney assist-
ant sup'ts W.W Hoover and H.J Widney, Chemist Arthur N Kay, Chief Engineer
C.E Carlson-Accountant W.F Groff assisted by M.M Brown. The president of the
company is J.G Hoffman 3rd he is also treasurer, E.G Howes Vice pres. I.E Se-
abright secretary and ass't treasurer,

This tannery has a daily capacity of 3000 sides of sole leather
which is shipped here from South America, Australia, New Zeland, Canada and Mex-
ico besides that which is shipped from the many packing centers of the U.S.A.
The entire output of this tannery is made into sole leather which is made from
cattle hides only, that is shipped to all ^{Shoe} manufacturing centers ~~XXX~~ here in
the U.S.A besides some is shipped abroad to be used there.

These two tanneries not only furnish employment to several hun-
dred of Pocahontas County men but this tanning industry located as they are
furnish a market for the surplus commodities of both Edray and Greenbank Dis-
tricts and have contributed greatly to the growth of the two sections of the
county as Frank has grown from a farming section to a town of over 400 popul-
ation this has meant more schools and larger ones for which Pocahontas is
famous. Therefore be it said that these two tanneries as permanent industries
have contributed more to the growth of Pocahontas County than any other ent-

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prise so far started and not just alone the people of Pocahontas as these
tanneries have helped keep our much needed rail roads operating within our
borders, from the taxes paid by the employees new roads and schools have been
built and maintained, which has contributed greatly to the growth of the county
as our good roads and our beautiful scenery has induced many tourists to travel
through our county and state and they spend much money at different centers
in the county.

So be it said that tanneries were started in Pocahontas County by the
first settlers and are still operating within our borders today.

Information-Calvin W Price. Marlinton. W. Va.

H. M. Widney. Frank. W. Va.

W. Va. Geological Survey. By Paul H Price.